

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for remotely building an image to manufacture information
2 handling systems, the system comprising:
3 an interface operable to accept image parameters from a builder through the
4 Internet;
5 an image library having plural image components;
6 an image creation engine operable to apply the image parameters to select
7 associated image components from the image library to build an image
8 conforming with the parameters; and
9 image build and test systems interfaced with the image creation engine and
10 operable to accept the library components to generate an information
11 handling system having the built image.

1 2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the image build and test systems
2 comprise hardware information handling systems built to accept the image.

1 3. The system of Claim 1 wherein the image build and test systems
2 comprise software virtual information handling systems built to accept the image.

1 4. The system of Claim 1 wherein the image library comprises
2 information handling system manufacturer defined image components and builder
3 defined image components.

1 5. The system of Claim 4 wherein the manufacturer defined image
2 components comprise one or more of operating systems, base images and
3 applications.

1 6. The system of Claim 4 wherein the builder defined image components
2 comprise one or more of builder-uploaded files, applications, and custom settings.

1 7. The system of Claim 6 wherein the builder defined custom settings
2 comprise hard disc drive partitions, BIOS settings, network settings, desktop settings,
3 system names and registry entries.

1 8. The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image test engine
2 operable to accept test commands communicated through the Internet and to apply the
3 test commands to the image build and test systems.

1 9. The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image promotion engine
2 operable to communicate a copy of the built image to an information handling system
3 manufacturing site for manufacture of information handling systems having the built
4 image.

1 10. The system of Claim 1 further comprising an image management
2 engine operable to accept builder defined image components through the Internet and
3 to copy the builder defined image components to the image library.

1 11. A method for remotely building an image to manufacture information
2 handling systems, the method comprising:
3 accessing a library of plural image components by a customer through a
4 remote network communication;
5 selecting image components for inclusion in manufactured information
6 handling systems;
7 defining an image manifest with the selected components;
8 building an image from the image manifest on a test information handling
9 system; and
10 copying the built image from the test information handling system for use in
11 manufacture of the information handling systems.

1 12. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 promoting the built image to an information handling system manufacture
3 environment; and

4 copying the built image to a manufactured information handling system.

1 13. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 accessing the test information handling system by the customer through the
3 remote network connection; and
4 testing operation of the image on the test information handling system.

1 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the test information handling system
2 comprises a hardware information handling system having the image loaded.

1 15. The method of Claim 13 wherein the test information handling system
2 comprises a virtual information handling system modeled in network-accessible
3 memory.

1 16. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 uploading to the image library from the customer through the remote network
3 communications one or more custom image components; and
4 including the custom image components in the image manifest.

1 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the custom image components
2 comprise one or more custom applications operable to perform a desired function on a
3 manufactured information handling system.

1 18. The method of Claim 16 wherein the custom image components
2 comprise custom information handling system settings.

1 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the custom information handling
2 system settings comprise one or more of hard disc drive partitions, BIOS settings,
3 network settings, desktop settings, system names and registry entries.

1 20. The method of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 storing the built image in the library; and
3 creating a new image by editing the stored built image.